

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Koichi WATANABE
Title: IMAGE READING APPARATUS AND IMAGE
FORMING APPARATUS
Appl. No.: 10/068,901
Filing Date: 02/11/2002
Examiner: Cheukfan Lee
Art Unit: 2625
Confirmation Number: 3551

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop After Final
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(d), a statement and fee are required.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

In a counterpart Japanese application, an Office Action dated October 30, 2007, was received by Applicants. According to an English translation of the Japanese Office Action obtained by Applicants' representative, the Japanese Patent Office made certain characterizations of the references. The disclosure of these characterizations should not be construed as an admission of or agreement to the opinions expressed in the Japanese Office Action. A copy of the Japanese Office Action and English language translation are attached herewith.

Documents A1 and A3 belong to the same "patent family," whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.

Unless otherwise indicated, no English translation is readily available (not considering machine-generated translations that may be freely available online, to both the Applicant and the PTO) for each of the non-English language documents. However, a commercially available English language abstract is provided herewith, where indicated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. Inasmuch as Applicants have endeavored to provide at least one item that complies with the requirement for a "concise explanation of relevance" for each of the non-English language documents, each of these documents has been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicant respectfully requests that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing of this Statement.

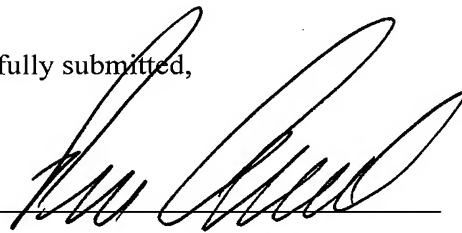
FEE

A credit card payment form in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR §1.17(p) to cover the fee associated with an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR §1.97(d) in the amount of \$180.00.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Date December 28, 2007

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